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NEWSLETTER

101-1283

1 November 1990

Washington, DC

VETERANS DAY. On November 11, 1918, at 11:00 a.m., the World War ended in Europe. It was the worst, most devastating armed conflict in human history up to that time. Nobody could imagine then that in only 20 years World War II would commence and that it would be an even greater tragedy. In 1918 news of the end of the Great War touched off huge celebrations. Crowds filled the streets, sirens wailed, church bells pealed and many people simply prayed their thanks. A year later President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed Armistice Day to commemorate the event. In the 1920s other countries who had participated in World War I began to have a day to remember and to honor their veterans. Parades and ceremonies were organized both here and abroad.

The name Armistice Day did not become officially known as that until 1926, when Congress passed a resolution to that effect. In 1938, on the very eve of World War II, Congress optimistically made Armistice Day a legal federal holiday commemorating the end of World War I ("the war to end wars"). In response to the suggestions of many veterans' groups after WW II Congress in 1954 changed the name of Armistice Day to Veterans Day---a time during which we would honor all of those who have so nobly served in peacetime and in war.

No nation has honored or looked out for its veterans to the extent that this one has. I have always felt that it is the duty of Congress to ensure that this process continues. The benefits accruing to veterans, the care given them in hospitals must never be allowed to erode. So long as we need military defense forces, so long as there are necessary actions such as Operation Desert Shield we will always have veterans. I urge you to attend a veterans parade or other ceremony. They are inspiring events and reminders that it is to these men and women that this country and its freedoms owe their very existence. I will be somewhere in Saudi Arabia with the troops on this Veterans Day in 1990.

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THE MONTGOMERY GI BILL. This was named for my friend and colleague G.V. (Sonny) Montgomery, who is Chairman of the House Committee on Veterans Affairs. The GI bill is now five years old and I am proud to have been a strong supporter of it in the Congress. This is a peacetime GI bill that provides up to \$300 per month education assistance for 36 months for personnel with three years of active duty, or two years active duty and four years in the Guard or Reserve. Those with two years active duty can get \$250 per month for 36 months. To be eligible personnel must have entered military service July 1, 1985 or later.

More than one million persons have participated already and it is estimated that within two years 10 percent of all students in U.S. colleges will be participants in the GI Bill program. More than 181,000 members of the Selected Reserve have also availed themselves of it. Because of what the GI Bill offers many talented and highly qualified young people

have opted to join our military services and this has helped us to maintain high standards in the All-Volunteer Force. In addition, many young people who otherwise could not afford to go to college after serving their country now are able to do so. The GI Bill is a success and our country continues to draw benefits from it.

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WORLD FOOD DAY. Two weeks ago your Congressman was honored to be the keynote speaker for the World Food Day ceremonies at the New York City headquarters of the United Nations. Among the other participants were UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar and the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization's (FAO) Edouard Saouma. I was pleased to be able to tell everyone gathered at the UN that the US commitment to helping developing nations improve their food-producing capabilities will be expanded and strengthened in the 1990 **Farm Bill** which reauthorizes U.S. farm and food programs.

As worked out by the House and Senate conferees the P.L. 480 (Food for Peace) program is strengthened by adding a provision to allow debt forgiveness for least developed countries. It establishes a new initiative called the Enterprise for the Americas Facility designed to improve the lives of people in Latin America and the Caribbean. This includes debt reduction, the creation of new investment opportunities and the encouragement of environmental and conservation activities. The bill also extends the Food for Progress program, which provides vital donated commodities to developing nations. Lasting peace cannot exist where people are hungry or suffer from malnutrition. Unfortunately, budget restraints are causing reductions in U.S. farm spending. That is why the Uruguay Round of GATT is so important. We must make the major trading nations understand that a fair and level playing field in agriculture trade is needed by all nations.

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THE U.S. MARINE CORPS has furnished me with these addresses for persons who want to send mail to any Marine:

(If on Land) Any Marine, Operation Desert Shield, APO NY 09848-0006

(If on Ship) Any Marine, Operation Desert Shield, FPO NY 09866-0006

The USMC further advises that these addresses are not to be used when sending mail to particular individuals by name. When sending mail to individuals by name, writers should use unit address prior to deployment if current address is not known. All nine zip code digits must be used otherwise there will be delays in sorting. **Also**, the Defense Department has established a telephone number for anyone who wants to donate gifts for troops in Operation Desert Shield. It is (703) 274-3661.

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VISITOR FROM HOME. Captain Michael J. Marchetti, U.S. Navy, Ingleside.

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